

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

June 20, 2018

10:00 AM

SAP&DC Conference Room

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on June 20, 2018, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the May 2, 2018, RTCC meeting minutes as presented
2. Approved the FY 2019-2022 Highway and Bridge TIP as presented.
3. Approved the FY 2019-2022 Transit TIP as presented.
4. Approved the RPO submitting the following applications for TSMO funding:
 - 2 Permanent Dynamic Message Signs in Huntingdon County, one on U.S. 22 near Water Street and one on PA 453 near the PA 45 intersection. Total project cost \$100,000.
 - 1 new ITS device on I-70 East of PA 484 in Fulton County. Total project cost \$340,000.
5. Approved the adoption of the performance measures for IRI, bridge and pavement conditions (PM2) and environmental performance measures (PM3) adopted by the State.
6. Approved the Southern Alleghenies RPO Policies and Procedures as presented.

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MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner Barry Dallara, Bedford County
- Commissioner Rodney McCray, Fulton County
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner John Vatauvuk, Somerset County
- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Thomas Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0
- Steve Howsare, SAP&DC
- Brandon Carson, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9-0
- Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0
- Matt Smoker, FHWA
- Brandon Peters, SAP&DC

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- May 2, 2018 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- Draft FY 2019-2022 TIP Public Comment Period Summary & Sign-In Sheets
- SA RPO 2019-2022 TIP Project Prioritization and Selection Process
- TSMO Capital funding Information
- SA RPO TIP Adjustments
- SAP&DC RPO Policies and Procedures
- RTCC Committee Membership List
- Deployed Trail Counters Map
- ARLE Program Guidance Document

II. Review and Approval of the May 2, 2018 RTCC Meeting Minutes

Tom Prestash welcomed the committee to the meeting and Brandon Carson conducted roll call. Tom asked the committee to review the May 2, 2018, RTCC meeting minutes included in the packet.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to approve the May 2, 2018, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Brandon Peters began by noting that there have been no changes to the TIP itself since the last meeting. The public comment period for the FY 2019-2022 TIP was held from May 4, 2018, through June 4, 2018, and public hearings were held in each of the four rural counties between May 17-23, 2018. There was a total of 25 attendees at the public hearings and a fair amount of comments were received. No comments were received outside of the public hearings and all comments were addressed at the meetings by Jim Pruss, Vince Greenland, and David Lybarger all from PennDOT District 9. A public comment summary was added to the FY 2019-2022 TIP. Also added was the Project Selection Process.

With no further discussion, Frank Hampton made a motion to approve the FY 2019-2022 Highway and Bridge TIP as presented. Commissioner Barry Dallara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Thomas had some transit issues he wanted to discuss with Joe Saxfield. Tom added that there is a new Deputy Secretary of Transit, Jenny Granger, and he would be happy to reach out to her for him. Joe is on vacation, but Brandon Peters agreed to have him contact the Commissioner when he returns.

With no further discussion, Steve Howsare made a motion to approve the FY 2019-2022 Transit TIP as presented. Brad Zearfoss seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Future Project Selection Process

Tom informed the committee that it is time to start soliciting projects for the FY 2021-2024 TIP. PennDOT Connects went well on the last TIP and helped PennDOT and the planning organizations make better decisions. He turned it over to Brandon Peters who added that the traditional planning process should begin with the LRTP and flow down to the TIP. We focus on a two-year county priority level process and frequently, many municipalities don't respond. With that in mind, the RPO is looking at focusing on using a more robust process at the front end of LRTP. The Counties and RPO will begin with a list of previously submitted projects that were not funded, the LRTP priority lists, and any new projects

submitted every four years when updating the LRTP. The RPO will have an active role in municipal outreach holding two strategically located meetings in each county to increase attendance. The RPO plans to schedule these meetings in August and September, provide a list to PennDOT in October and submit a prioritized list for the FY 2021 TIP to PennDOT in January. To wrap up Brandon stated that the plan moving forward is to compile what has been submitted in the past, to seek additional projects and problems from the counties that they have prioritized; and to take an active role in outreach.

Vince Greenland added that with PennDOT Connects, they went out and met with many municipalities to discuss potential projects, many of which were not funded. They plan to reach out to those municipalities to let them know there is a funding shortage, but the project is still a priority.

V. Traffic Systems Maintenance & Operations (TSMO)

Tom introduced Tony Tanzia from PennDOT who gave a presentation on Transportation Systems Maintenance and Operations (TSMO) Capital Funding. There is \$5 M available statewide and applications are due August 3, 2018. PennDOT has already met with SAP&DC staff to discuss the applications. The guidelines for the program were included in the meeting packet. Tony informed the committee that the mission of TSMO is to move people and goods from point A to point B as efficiently, safely, and reliably as possible. The purpose of the program is to address the liability of systems, the mobility of congestion, and implement various strategies, rather than trying to build our way out, causing more congestion. The goal is to make sure some of these strategies are part of planning and programming of each project, and to identify funding strategies and educate stakeholders and the public on the benefits of these strategies.

There is \$5 M available statewide for each Federal Fiscal Year. TSMO funding requires a 50% match. TIP dollars are considered match but must be available to be programmed when awarded. The application period is from April 30, 2018, to August 3, 2018. An online link was included in the Guidelines and in the presentation. There is no limit to the number of applications the MPO/RPO can submit. Projects must be completed within one year of being awarded. Eligible projects include replacement of antiquated dynamic message signs (DMS) and cameras, new ITS devices, new or upgraded communication systems, deployment of an appropriate TSMO and PennDOT Connects solution identified in PennDOT's TSMO Guidebook – Part I Planning, Connected and Automated Vehicle Infrastructure Pilot Deployments, and Regional Operations Plan or Regional ITS Architecture update.

Six locations have been identified by PennDOT District 9 with antiquated signs. Two of the six antiquated Permanent Dynamic Message Signs fall in the Southern Alleghenies RPO. One is on U.S. 22 near Water Street and one is on PA 453 near the PA 45 intersection. Both are located in Huntingdon County. The total project cost to replace the signs is \$100,000 (\$50,000 TIP/\$50,000 TSMO). The RPO would be the applicant and would work collaboratively with PennDOT on these projects.

PennDOT District 9 has identified eight prioritized locations for new devices. Only one is in the RPO and is located on I-70 East of PA 484 in Fulton County. The estimated cost, including design and construction, is \$340,000 (\$170,000 TIP/\$170,000 TSMO).

Each planning organization applies for their own funding. Applications can be submitted every year. There were some questions about eligible types of projects. The RTTC recommended approval to submit the applications. PennDOT added that even though the MPO's and RPO apply separately, if approved, the projects can be bundled on the TIP for cost savings.

With no further discussion, Commissioner McCray made a motion to approve the RPO submitting applications for TSMO funding for the projects identified above. Frank Hampton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. FY 2017-2020 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Anne Stich reviewed the FY 2017-2020 TIP modifications with the committee answering any questions they had. There were no amendments requiring approval.

VII. Performance Measures

Previously this committee approved the Safety Performance Measures set by the State (PM1). The State has recently set new performance measures for IRI, bridge and pavement conditions (PM2) and environmental performance measures (PM3). The RPO now has 180 days to adopt the State measures or set their own. The RPO has not received the official letter at this time, but the next meeting will be past the 180 days. Once the official letter is received, Brandon Peters will send it out to the committee members. Matt Smoker from FHWA gave a brief description of PM 2 and PM 3 to the committee. Tom Prestash added that PennDOT District 9-0 will have no issue making the required recommendations.

With no further discussion, Brandon Carson made a motion to adopt the performance measures for IRI, bridge and pavement conditions (PM2) and environmental performance measures (PM3) adopted by the State. Frank Hampton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. RPO Bylaws Adoption

Brandon Carson informed the committee that previously, this committee approved the recommendation to add new representatives to the RTTC. The committee now needs to update the RPO Policies and Procedures to reflect that change. An updated version of the policies and procedures was included in the meeting packet with the changes highlighted in yellow. Brandon reviewed the changes with the committee answering any questions they had. The counties will identify the new representatives and then they will ultimately be appointed by the RTCC at its November meeting. The new committee structure would take

effect January 1, 2019. It was also noted that the rail representative is no longer employed in the rail industry and needs to be replaced on the committee.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Barry Dallara made a motion to approve the Southern Alleghenies RPO Policies and Procedures as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Other Business

Infrared traffic counter deployment

Brandon Peters showed the committee a map of where the traffic counters were deployed. He showed the data that has been collected to date and noted that the data will be useful to support future improvement applications. Recently two counters were deployed at the H&CB trail and staff is currently working on an agreement with the Thousand Steps. SAP&DC will be receiving five additional counters to install throughout the RPO and hopes to hear from this committee and the RTTC for suggestions on where they would like the additional counters deployed.

ARLE Program

The Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) Program is currently open now through July 31st. Information on the program has been sent out to the municipalities. The program is 100% state funded and is open to local authorities, MPOs/RPOs, Commonwealth agencies, and county planning organizations. He also reviewed the types of projects that are eligible for the funding. Funding available is based on project revenue. A copy of the ARLE Guidance Document was included in the meeting packet.

DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund

The application period for the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund also ends July 31st. Brandon highly recommended municipalities take advantage of this as the match has been waived for municipalities (not municipal authorities). Match for this grant is 50%.

Other Business

Steve Howsare asked if any information was received as to why the RPO's top rated project was not funded in the TAP funding. Tom replied that they have not but PennDOT is setting up a meeting with MECCA to discuss it. Letters were sent to the legislators and staff met with representatives from Senator Casey's office to express our disappointment with the change to a statewide program.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there had been any news from Federal Highway Administration on Route 453. Tom responded that there has not. Commissioner Thomas also noted that Huntingdon County formed a rail authority and named a president for the spur into the Huntingdon Industrial Park. The first meeting is coming up and he wondered if SAP&DC staff would be interested in attending. They are looking into property and if acquired, will be looking for funding to make needed repairs. The cost is expected to be

around \$3 Million. He will send the information on the next meeting to PennDOT and SAP&DC.

He also asked PennDOT who would be responsible for the crosswalks on Route 26 through Huntingdon; is it the Borough or the State. Tom responded that the crosswalks are the Boroughs responsibility. Vince Greenland added that they actually received one of the first ARLE grants to redo some of the crosswalks 4 or 5 years ago.

Matt smoker noted that FHWA works with the MPOs and RPOs as well as PennDOT on a yearly basis to develop a technical assistance program. He is currently finalizing that plan. He asked if there was any technical assistance, training, presentations, or specialties that this group would like to see. Let Brandon know if there is and they can work to add it. He also noted that the technical assistance plan includes starting the LRTP process a little earlier, which ties in with Brandon's discussion earlier.

Tom Prestash reviewed the action items from the last meeting. The first was to present a breakout of the resurfacing and regular maintenance projects conducted in each of the RPO counties to give a bigger picture of the work being completed on the TIP. There is about 207 miles of maintenance projects scheduled over the next two years. In Bedford County there is 64 miles, Fulton County will be 60 – 70 miles, Huntingdon County will have 40 miles and Somerset County 77 miles. This information is also being covered at all of the TIP Outreach meetings currently being held by the RPO. The second was to provide Commissioner Thomas a list of projects identified in the Route 22 Study for the HCB&I Meeting. He apologized for the delay in getting the list to him. He reviewed several projects that have already been completed and a few that are yet to be constructed with him. He will send him the complete list. The study did not go to waste. Commissioner Dallara has asked for information on the MPO's. They are working on a condensed version of this for him as there is a lot of information that could be provided. And the last was to discuss the possibility of a rail freight project in Claysburg with Commissioner Dallara. They did discuss this, and a meeting is being scheduled to discuss the possibility further.

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Jeff Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 11:03 AM.

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| <p>NOTE: The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for November 7, 2018, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.</p> |
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RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

June 20, 2018

ACTION ITEMS

| Date Issued | Action Items | By Whom | Due Date |
|--------------------|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| June 20, 2018 | Have Joe Saxfield contact Commissioner Thomas to discuss transit issues. | Brandon Peters | The week of June 25 – 29 |
| June 20, 2018 | Send the official letter documenting the new performance measures for IRI, bridge and pavement conditions (PM2) and environmental performance measures (PM3) adopted by the State out to the committee members. | Brandon Peters | When received |